

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1907.

Twentieth Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Condition of the East Grinstead Urban District for the Year ending 31st December, 1907.

Area: 6,355 Acres. Population: (Census of 1901) 6,094.

	1905	1906	1907
Population estimated to middle of year	6,500	6,650	6,800
Birth Rate per 1,000...	20.1	19.2	20.05
General Death Rate per 1,000...	8.9	9.6	9.4
Zymotic Death Rate per 1,000...	.61	.70	.73
Death Rate from Phthisis	.76	1.2	1.4
Death Rate from Respiratory Diseases	.61	1.3	1.6
Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births	61.06	110.2	92.8
Deaths over 65, per-centage of total Deaths	31.03	21.2	31.9

VITAL STATISTICS.

In 1907 the deaths of 85 persons at all ages and from all causes were recorded in the district against 80 in 1906 and 79 in 1905. The 85 deaths were at the rate of 12.5 per 1,000 of the total population. Of this number 13 were children under one year of age and were in the proportion of 9.02 per cent of those born; 23, or 31.9 per cent were of persons 65 years of age and upwards. The deaths of 6 persons 80 years of age and upwards were recorded, the oldest being 88 years old: 13 children died under the age of one year, in the proportion of 92.8 per 1,000 registered births. Of the 85 recorded deaths, 18 occurred in the Workhouse, seven in the Cottage Hospital, and two in the Sanatorium. Excluding these 27 deaths, the death rate was 8.5. Of the 85 deaths, 13 were of persons not residing in the district, but brought into it from outside districts, 11 of them dying in the Workhouse, one in the Cottage Hospital, and one in the Sanatorium.

CORRECTED DEATH RATE.

Excluding the deaths of the 13 persons who were admitted to Public Institutions in the town from outside districts, the correct death rate in the Urban District is 9.4 per 1,000 persons living. For the last eight years the death rate has stood at about the same low figure.

BIRTHS.

The births numbered 140, an increase of 13 from those of the previous year; 79 of these children were males, and 61 females, equal to a birth rate of 20.05 per 1,000 of the population.

DEATHS FROM ZYMOTIC DISEASE.

There were five deaths from the ordinary Zymotic Diseases, viz.:

Influenza	...	...	...	...	1
Diphtheria	..	...	...	...	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	1
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	1

in the ratio of .73 of those living.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Thirty-one cases were reported to me under the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, as follows :

Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	17
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	10
Erysipelas	...	...	...	...	3
Puerperal Fever...	...	...	...	...	1

Sixteen of the cases of Scarlet Fever and six of the cases of Diphtheria were removed to the Sanatorium, the other eight cases were isolated and treated at home.

There was one death from Diphtheria in the Sanatorium.

SCARLET FEVER.

Seven of the 17 cases of Scarlet Fever were reported in May and June, but at no time was there anything like an epidemic. With one exception all the cases were removed to the Sanatorium and the premises promptly disinfected.

DIPHTHERIA.

The 10 cases of Diphtheria reported to me were of sporadic distribution; in only one instance was there any evidence of the disease being communicated by personal contact. Six of these cases were removed to the Sanatorium, one child died before it could be removed, the other three were isolated and treated at their own homes.

TUBERCLE.

There were 10 deaths from Pulmonary Phthisis, or other Tubercular disease, in the proportion of 13·8 per cent. of the deaths from all causes, equal to a death rate of 1·4 per 1,000 living.

CANCER.

Seven persons died from cancer, equal to a death rate of 1.02 per 1,000 of those living.

INQUESTS.

Five inquests were held in the district; one of these was on a suicide, one on a woman who died of puerperal fever, the other three were on persons who died from natural causes.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

No new cottages were built by the Council, but those previously erected have been constantly occupied. A good many cottages have been built by private individuals.

DAIRIES.

The dairies and cowsheds have been inspected, and have generally been found in a satisfactory condition. It was however discovered during the summer that certain dairymen were adding Formalin as a preservative to milk. This is a dangerous custom, rendering the milk quite unfit for consumption by delicate persons and young children. Notices were issued to all the dairymen in the town absolutely forbidding the addition of Formalin to milk.

DRAINAGE.

During the year the new relief sewer in the railway cutting at Greenhedges was completed, since then there has been no overflow on the surface.

At the sewage farm the effluent has much improved in quality since the installation of additional Bacteria beds. The farm has also improved in condition.

The whole of the Sunnyside district lying to the north of the stream has now been drained, 68 houses having been connected to the sewer in the past year. Considerable difficulty

has been experienced in ventilating the rising sewer through which the sewage is pumped to the high level sewer. A "Destructor" lamp was first erected in the Lewes Road, but as this proved to be a nuisance to adjoining residents, it was removed and an iron ventilating column, 35 feet high, erected in the Old Road. This is apparently successful, but it has not been long enough in operation to enable me to say if it will prevent smell in the hot weather.

ROADS.

Last summer a considerable stretch of the Roads in, and near the town was tar-washed; this was of great service in mitigating the dust nuisance, it was a great boon to shopkeepers and roadside dwellers, and could not fail to be beneficial to the public health by greatly lessening the amount of dust inhaled into the throat and lungs.

The Council are negotiating for the Rights over the Playfield near the Schools; if they are successful in obtaining them I hope the present method of burning rubbish by a certain number of townspeople on this piece of ground will be discontinued.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

The Factories and Workshops have been regularly inspected and have generally been found in good order, in only one instance was it found necessary to serve a notice on the owner.

WATER.

In December, 1906, specifications were issued and tenders invited for duplicating the engines and enlarging the engine house at Hackenden, the object of this being to give the town a constant supply of water. The contract was sealed in January, 1907, for this work, also for the installation of "Bell's" filters. Although the work was pushed on as fast as possible it was found impossible to complete the work by the end of last summer as the Directors of the Company had hoped; owing to accidents to the new machinery unavoidable delay took place, but I am glad to say that at the time of writing this report the work is completed and the town is now enjoying the benefit of a constant supply. All the water from Hackenden is passed through the filters before being distributed through the mains. The water has been subjected to quarterly analysis by Sir Thomas Stevenson, whose reports have been very satisfactory.

Although the summer was so cold and damp, the rainfall is the smallest I have recorded in the last 20 years and only amounted to 26.03 inches, nearly six inches below the average.

PERCY E. WALLIS,

OLD STONE HOUSE,

Medical Officer of Health.

EAST GRINSTEAD,

March 25th, 1908.

VITAL STATISTICS OF EAST GRINSTEAD URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1906⁷.
AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				TOTAL DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTI-TUTIONS IN THE DISTRICT.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
		Number	Rate*	Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number	Rate*
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births Registered	Number	Rate*					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1897	5,800	145	25·0	29	165·0	92	15·8	26	18		74	12·7
1898	5,900	136	22·05	19	139·7	99	16·7	33	24		75	12·5
1899	6,000	172	28·6	16	93·0	97	16·1	26	14		83	13·8
1900	6,100	130	22·7	8	57·5	65	12·2	13	20		51	9·01
1901	6,150	144	23·4	13	81·02	63	10·2	9	5		48	9·2
1902	6,200	151	24·3	12	74·4	85	13·7	28	22		63	10·1
1903	6,300	159	25·2	13	81·1	84	13·3	31	20		64	9·8
1904	6,400	151	23·5	11	69·1	85	10·6	29	17		68	10·6
1905	6,500	131	20·1	8	61·06	79	12·1	28	21		58	8·9
1906	6,650	127	19·2	14	118·1	80	12·03	22	11		69	9·6
Average for years 1897-1906	6·200	144·6	23·4	14·3	93·9	82·9	13·2	24·5	17·2		65·3	10·6
1907	6,800	140	20·05	13	92·8	85	12·5	27	13		72	9·4

* Rates in Columns 4, 8 and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

NOTE.—The deaths to be included in Column 7 of this Table are the whole of those registered during the year as having actually occurred within the district or division. The deaths to be included in Column 12 are the number in Column 7, corrected by the subtraction of the number in Column 10 and the addition of the number in Column 10.

By the term “ Non-residents ” is meant persons brought into the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and dying in public institutions there ; and by the term “ Residents ” is meant persons who have been taken out of the district on account of sickness or infirmity, and have died in public institutions elsewhere.

The “ Public institutions ” to be taken into account for the purposes of these Tables are those into which persons are habitually received on account of sickness or infirmity, such as hospitals, workhouses and lunatic asylums. A list of the Institutions in respect of the deaths in which corrections have been made should be given on the back of this Table.

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water), **6,355.**

Total Population at all ages, **6,094**
Number of Inhabited House, **1,142**
Average number of Persons per house, **5·33**

} At Census of 1901.